

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact
September 5, 2013

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| Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet |
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management limits were included in Fall Fact Sheet #1
- 273,820 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam through September 4. These counts include 243,272 bright stock fish and 30,548 tules. The tule count includes 4,877 adult size jack tules. A subsampling of the window counts indicates that approximately 63% of the adult Chinook at Bonneville are un-clipped of which a large proportion are expected to be wild fish.
- The adult fall Chinook count at McNary Dam is 50,162. The 60,000 fish escapement goal will be met in a few days.
- The fall Chinook count at Lower Monumental Dam is 9,280 which suggests a strong return of Snake River fall Chinook, but passage conditions at Lower Granite remain poor with only 2,696 fall Chinook past Lower Granite.
- Counts of A and B Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam for July 1-August 12 totals 182,898 fish. These include 83,672 unclipped fish (approximately 46% unclipped). TAC has downgraded the A index run size to 199,000 at Bonneville, but has not updated the B Index run size. Steelhead counts have remained lower than average. Only a very small number of B sized steelhead have been sampled to date at Bonneville which suggests the B steelhead to date are performing less than expected.
- The adult coho count at Bonneville Dam is 6,583 fish through September 4. The cumulative coho count to date is the lowest since 2002.

2013 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall season treaty harvest to date is shown in the Table below
- Commercial sales began at 6:00 AM on Monday August 12 for platform and hook and line Yakama Nation tributary fisheries. Sales are expected to continue throughout the fall season.
- The third week of commercial gillnet fishing is in progress. The catches shown for this week are modeled based on the actual net counts and updated catch rates from the first two gillnet periods.
- The catches for next week's proposed fishery is also modeled using the average catch rates of the first two fishing periods.

| 2013 Fall Season Tribal Harvest | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|------|
| Fishery | Dates | Nets | Total Adult Chinook Catch | Adult URB | Adult MCB | Adult Tule | Total Steelhead catch | B Steelhead | Coho |
| Platform/ Permit | 8/1- 8/18 | | 1,327 | 1,157 | 31 | 0 | 4,100 | 110 | 11 |
| Gillnet #1 | 8/19-8/21 | 403 | 4,408 | 3,948 | 129 | 256 | 1,012 | 198 | 11 |
| Gillnet #2 | 8/26-8/30 | 655 | 23,842 | 18,522 | 1,186 | 4,108 | 1,180 | 78 | 100 |
| Subtotal | | | 29,577 | 23,627 | 1,346 | 4,364 | 6,292 | 386 | 122 |
| Gillnet #3 Projection | 9/3-9/7 | 726 | 42,650 | 19,400 | 17,300 | 5,950 | 2,400 | 550 | 110 |
| SubTotal | | | 72,227 | 43,027 | 18,646 | 10,314 | 8,692 | 936 | 232 |
| Gillnet #4 Projection | 9/10-9/14 | 750 | 51,450 | 25,000 | 20,050 | 6,400 | 2,550 | 750 | 110 |
| Total | | | 123,677 | 68,027 | 38,696 | 16,714 | 11,242 | 1,686 | 342 |
| Allowed | | | | 130,380 | | | 4,740 | 4,740 | |
| Remaining | | | | 87,353 | | | | 3,804 | |

| Recommendation: 2013 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery | |
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| Season: | 6:00 AM Tuesday September 10 through 6:00 PM Saturday September 14 (4.5 days) |
| Area: | Zone 6 |
| Gear: | Gillnet. 8 inch minimum mesh size. |
| Sanctuaries | Standard sanctuaries for this gear type are in place including the Standard Spring Creek Sanctuary |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from the Bonneville Pool (38 to 54 inches fork length) and from The Dalles and John Day Pools (43 to 54 inches fork length) may be retained for subsistence purposes. Fish caught during the open periods may be sold after the period concludes. |
| Additional Rules: | 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. |

- At the end of this week, the tribes project that the treaty fishery will have reached a 9.9% URB harvest rate and a 3.0% B steelhead harvest rate. Based on the projection for next week's fishery, the URB harvest rate at the end of next week would be 15.7% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 8.5%.
- Since there are concerns about the B steelhead run size, tribal staff estimated what the B steelhead harvest rates would be if the B steelhead run were only 19,950 which is just under the run size that would require managing for a 13% harvest rate instead of a 15% harvest rate. At this run size the projected harvest rate at the end of this week would be 4.7% and the projected harvest rate at the end of next week would be 8.5%. Based on this, tribal staff

predict that there is an adequate buffer remaining to address a potential downgrade in the B steelhead run size.

- Tribal staff will monitor fisheries and report catches on a weekly basis. Net counts will be done each week to determine fishing effort.
- Depending on run size updates and actual catches in this week's and next week's fishery, there may be enough remaining impacts to set additional gillnet openings later in September.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes will request a Compact Hearing to be held on Thursday September 12 to consider commercial gillnet fishing periods.